

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes February 1, 2006 Conference Call

Members Present: Helen Jones, President
Lee Otto
Jim Mickelson
David Graham
Gene Hardy
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
David Largent

Members Absent: Jack Corson
Spencer Ellis, Vice President
Emily Horton
Leif Udem
Governor Freudenthal's Office
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

WDA Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary

Conservation District Criteria Reporting

Bobbie Frank and Dani Sullivan were present to report all 23 Conservation Districts met the funding criteria as approved by the Board of Agriculture. Therefore, all 23 qualify to receive their funding in July, 2006. Dani thank all the districts for their hard work in getting the necessary reports compiled and sent in.

Discussion

John said the Joint Appropriations committee is finished with the department budget and it went very well. They did add 2 positions to the Consumer Health Services budget. They did not approve the equine funding, but did ask for a business plan and would like to review it again next year for funding.

John is going with Del Tinsley to Worland for WESTI Days. He also reminded everyone of the Basque Festival in Buffalo July 21-23. He is meeting with the managers next week to discuss the bills the department will be tracking.

Helen reported Mr. Schiffer does not support the Predator Bill. He felt some of the counties are not accountable and didn't like the idea of giving them full rein. John indicated the ADMB will have oversight, as well as the full-time position (funded in the bill). Mr. Schiffer also felt there are some counties PABs that are not well run. He doesn't want to give them money from the public coffers when they won't even assess themselves. John asked the members if they had received the 4 sample letters to be sent to legislative members and others. He asked told them they were sent by the ADMB, but prepared by the Wool Growers. There was some language in them that should have been removed so asked them not to use them.

Helen asked if any of the members had received phone calls regarding the removal of the Mountain Pine Beetle from the State Designated Weed and Pest List. None of them had. Slade Franklin is going to send a packet of information to each member so they understand both sides of the issue. Helen reminded everyone there would be a hearing on the removal February 22, 2006 at 5:05 p.m. The decision of the Board will be made at the April meeting.

John feels the support is out there for the reorganization of the Board of Agriculture. Senator Meyer would rather see his bill go through, which includes changing the board to 13 members, eliminating the youth members, and allowing for those counties with the most production to have more representation.

John doesn't know how the Livestock Board faired with the Joint Appropriations Committee. John said it's difficult for each legislator to understand the many issues and feels it's up to all of us to educate them on the issues we are each familiar with.

Helen asked the members if they had any changes to the first half of the policies. Since none were noted, she asked them to review the second half and report on them at the next conference call.

Helen asked John for his thoughts on the members lobbying efforts. He thinks they need to coordinate between themselves. He would also like to see them be available to come down to Cheyenne if there is a problem.

Conservation District Appointments

David Graham made a motion to appoint Delloyd Quarberg to replace Ross Rhodes. Gene Hardy seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

John said it appears the rules for application for small water projects are even more restrictive than before and they must all have a Level 1 review before application.

Helen said each member of the NE sage Grouse Working group needs to write a white paper for a report to Game & Fish. She is getting help with the paper by Justin Williams and when complete, asked if each member would review it before it is submitted to Game and Fish.

Helen will be sending a draft letter to Muff on the Living Legacy Program so she can get them mailed to the prepared list.

Jim Michelson said all the permittees had received a letter from BLM regarding the fencing. He is sending the info to Muff so she can get it out to see if the Department can help. John is going to meet with Jim Cagney and he'll see if he can find out what is going on.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Jones, President

Date